

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Kosovo
Program Title:	Accountable and Transparent Governance
Pillar:	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Strategic Objective:	167-0210
Status:	Continuing
Planned FY 2005 Obligation:	\$8,000,000 AEEB
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$1,277,000 AEEB
Proposed FY 2006 Obligation:	\$7,680,000 AEEB
Year of Initial Obligation:	1999
Estimated Year of Final Obligation:	2008

Summary: A civil society and government that are more effective partners in achieving good governance is a strategic objective supporting the Mission's overall democracy and governance goal. Areas of concentration will seek to engender better informed citizens with a commensurate increased influence on public policy. This objective will also seek to create conditions in which local governments are more accountable and transparent in their operations. Furthermore, with increased devolution of responsibilities to the local level, activities will be focused on assisting the municipalities to fulfill their key functions more efficiently. These efforts will include work with the media, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and local governments.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2005 Program: Establish and Ensure Media Freedom and Freedom of Information (\$2,300,000 AEEB, \$800,000 AEEB carryover, \$3,000 AEEB prior year recoveries). USAID will continue its assistance to ensure that the two main private Kosovo-wide television stations continue their financial growth towards sustainability, the quality of news in both broadcast and print media continues to improve, and the Kosovo Terrestrial Telecommunication Network (KTTN) successfully transforms into a private for-profit organization. In mid-2005, USAID will initiate a new Media Assistance Program (MAP) which will be one of the key vehicles for achieving Kosovo media sector sustainability. The aim of the project is to: 1) improve the media legal framework and enable it to promote free speech and access to information; 2) increase quality standards to an higher level of professionalism; 3) increase the business viability of independent media to allow for editorial independence; and 4) increase the organizational capacity of media associations and their effectiveness in representing the interests of media and freedom of speech. Grantee: International Research & Exchanges Board (IREX); Contractor: To be determined (TBD).

Strengthen Civil Society (\$1,400,000 AEEB, \$324,000 AEEB carryover). USAID will continue to support the Kosovo non-governmental organizations' (NGOs') efforts to increase their advocacy skills. In mid-2005 USAID will initiate a new civil society activity. This assistance will focus on further improving the advocacy skill of NGOs, strengthening NGO resource centers and grant-making organizations, improving financial viability and their public image by providing technical assistance, training, and grants to NGOs. Grantee: East-West Management Institute; Contractor: TBD.

Support Democratic Local Government and Decentralization (\$4,300,000 AEEB, \$150,000 AEEB carryover). In FY 2005 support will focus on strengthening local governments through improving the legislative and institutional framework for local governance and promoting good governance in selected "host" municipalities by improving their effectiveness, responsiveness, transparency, and accountability. At the central level USAID will provide technical assistance in policy formulation to institute a legislative framework for devolving local governance. At the local level, Resident Municipal Advisors (RMAs) assigned to host municipalities will focus on: 1) improving municipal management and leadership; 2) improving transparency, accountability, and public participation; and 3) fostering local economic development by providing technical assistance to

targeted municipalities. The use of Development Credit Authority (DCA) resources at both levels to hasten progress will be undertaken to the extent feasible. The Municipal Infrastructure and Support Initiative (MISI) is an activity with the goal of improving the climate for minority returns and (re)integration by involving community level activists of all ethnicities in selecting, funding, and tendering small infrastructure projects for their communities. The tragic events of March 2004 in Kosovo, when ethnic tensions flared up into violence leading to loss of life and property damage, emphasized the importance of mechanisms like the MISI-facilitated multi-ethnic working groups as a vehicle for sustainable return and reconciliation. Contractor: RTI International (prime); Grantee: Mercy Corps (prime).

FY 2006 Program: Establish and Ensure Media Freedom and Freedom of Information (\$1,780,000 AEED). USAID will engage in the process of transition of regulatory competencies from United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) to the Independent Media Commission. In FY 2005 USAID will continue to be involved in developing the media sector in Kosovo with the objective of improving the media legal framework, increasing professionalism among journalists, and increasing the business viability of independent media. Contractor: TBD.

Strengthen Civil Society (\$1,650,000 AEED). USAID will assist NGOs, networks and coalitions to make them more efficient advocates and agents of change. In addition, USAID will assist public policy NGOs and think tanks to better engage in policy dialogue with the decision-makers at both the local and central level. Grantee: TBD.

Support Democratic Local Government and Decentralization (\$4,250,000 AEED). In FY 2006 USAID will continue the implementation of the Local Government Initiative (LGI) and more fully integrate it with other USAID and donor programs. At the central level LGI is expected to implement decentralization and to advance the legislative process for a Law on Local Self-Governance for Kosovo. At the local level, USAID will continue capacity building of municipal administrations, strengthening public participation, improving transparency and accountability, improving service delivery, and fostering local economic development. The program will expand to additional municipalities at an increasing pace during FY 2006. The program will also help to consolidate the transfer of competencies from UNMIK to municipal governments. Contractor: RTI International (prime).

Performance and Results: According to the three surveys conducted on quarterly basis, RTV 21, one of the two USAID-supported Kosovo-wide private TV stations, became the market leader with more than 53% of viewership share. The annually conducted Media Sustainability Index (MSI) shows an increase in the FY 2004 score for Kosovo indicating that the Kosovo media sector is slowly moving towards sustainability. The MSI indicated that the media associations have started to effectively engage in advocating for freedom of speech. The 2004 NGO Sustainability Index shows significant improvement of the NGO sector in Kosovo. The LGI assisted in improving the legislative framework for local governance by providing technical assistance to a Local Government Working Group established by UNMIK and the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government. The March 2004 riots were a setback for the MISI program, but USAID was able to get the program back on track relatively quickly as it was working at the community level. By late March MISI staff had visited or spoken with 29 minority or multi-ethnic communities where MISI infrastructure projects had been proposed, and succeeded in reengaging minority communities to continue their work with their respective municipalities in implementing the identified infrastructure needs.

By the end of the strategy period, it is expected that USAID assistance will have resulted in sustainability of two Kosovo-wide private TV stations, will enable NGOs to regularly engage government officials and institutions and advocate for changes, and will increase municipal governments' responsiveness to citizens' needs.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Kosovo

167-0210 Accountable and Transparent Governance	AEEB	ESF
Through September 30, 2003		
Obligations	33,105	141
Expenditures	26,289	141
Unliquidated	6,816	0
Fiscal Year 2004		
Obligations	9,161	0
Expenditures	8,430	0
Through September 30, 2004		
Obligations	42,266	141
Expenditures	34,719	141
Unliquidated	7,547	0
Prior Year Unobligated Funds		
Obligations	1,277	0
Planned Fiscal Year 2005 NOA		
Obligations	8,000	0
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2005		
Obligations	9,277	0
Proposed Fiscal Year 2006 NOA		
Obligations	7,680	0
Future Obligations	0	0
Est. Total Cost	59,223	141